

CATS Membership Virtual Meeting

May 26, 2021 9:30 am

Attendance 42

President Barbara White welcomed all members.

Mary Spear, Education Committee Co-Chair. , introduced today's speaker:

Phil Stokes

Founding member of CATS and its second President, he is currently a board member/treasurer and heads the Building and Grounds Committee at Ivy Creek Natural Area. He serves on the Jefferson Chapter VNPS board and is an active member of the Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards. The title of his talk is "Invasive Removal & Native Woodland Restoration of Stokes Farm and on early CATS Projects".

Stokes Farm

11 years ago, Phil was asked to do a presentation based on his experience in converting 20 of a 50-acre farm from an overgrown invasive "jungle" into a native woodland with mostly native grasses, perennials, trees and shrubs. 5 acres have been restored at this time. Having documented the ongoing project with pictures then and photographing the same sites now was most interesting as it clearly showed which plantings worked at keeping invasive plants out, what was able to take root and thrive, and what either failed or did not reach its potential. Phil stressed the importance of matching plant needs with site soil type, moisture, light, root competition, wildlife/deer residence. Also important is to be able to differentiate the natives from invasives before beginning mass clearing. He described the different plantings he chose for these different sites and listed the nurseries where he made purchases. He recommended, based on his own experience, that purchasing plugs rather than plants in pots was easier and seemed to be more successful. The trees he purchased were natives mostly to Virginia and he preferred to plant bare roots rather than balled.

CATS Barracks Road Project 2009

Phil begin this project on about an acre of UVA land next to Barracks Road. The Rivanna Trail runs through this area as well as a creek on the western edge of the property. From the beginning, UVA has been supportive by providing funds for native plants as well as more money later on for more plantings. Mulch was provided by UVA as well as removing piles of invasive plantings that were cleared from the site. The pictures of the before the 2009 CATS project and May 2021 were amazing. Many native varieties of woodland plants and trees have made this a beautiful place for walkers, runners and sometimes people having parties in the woods. Based on the stream restorations of a couple of businesses across the road from Barracks road, it would seem that this CATS project was an incentive for others to restore and maintain their scenic areas as well. This is an ongoing project that Phil says will need a future work day soon.

Business Meeting:

Treasury Report: Michelle Cormier

Checking Account \$13,008.00

Money Market Account \$20,132.00
Total Assets: \$33,140.00

No outstanding bills.

Communications: Penny Kaiserlian-Martha Orton

Communications has continued to promote Tree Basics Classes and the fall Tree Stewards Training Class. Registration for the training class will begin June 15.

Martha reminded everyone of the 2021 Tree Steward Symposium to be held on Zoom June 24, 2021, at 9:00 AM and June 25 at 9:00 AM. Information will be sent out soon for registration which is open to everyone this year as there will be no restrictions on the number of participants since it will be a virtual meeting.

Education: Tim Maywalt- Mary Spear

Mary reported that the June membership speaker is Dr. Christopher Barton of Green Forest Work. His talk will be focused on Bringing Back the Forest.

She also requested that members send pictures to the CATS website which has easy directions regarding uploading.

Tim reports that June 15 will be Tree Basics class of Summer Tree Id. In person Tree walks will begin in the fall with a walk in Pen Park and a new walk on the UVA grounds. For each of these walks, there will be a counter walk for CATS members only.

Projects: Kathy Nepote

Work projects this last month have been held at NE Park, Ivy Creek, Greenleaf Park and a potting project of 200 new trees at the nursery. Pleasant Valley is needing volunteers to help with trails and the new Chestnut plantings. Anyone interested should contact Walter Hussey. As always, check TIF for any projects that could just pop up.

Member Picnic: Robin Hanes

Robin has been able to reserve a picnic space at The Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Greenwood (7599 Rockfish Gap Turnpike) for Saturday June 26, 2021 11:00 AM. There is a 400 year- old White Oak on this property that one of the Bartlett arborists, who attends this church, makes sure is well cared for. There is ample parking and restrooms will be open. As in the past, this will be a pot luck.

Volunteer hours need to reported no later than the end of June.

Meeting adjourned 10:51 AM.